



## Annual Parent Leadership Conference Agenda

### *Working Together to Improve Student Learning*

Olympia Resort and Conference Center, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

**Wednesday, March 7, 2007**

7:45 - 8:30 Registration

8:30 - 9:45 General Session (Olympia A & B)

#### *Welcome*

**Margaret Planner**, Ph.D., Assistant State Superintendent  
Division for Reading and Student Achievement

#### *Keynote*

**Mavis Sanders**, Ph.D., holds a joint appointment as research scientist at the Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships and associate professor in the Graduate Division of Education at Johns Hopkins University. Mavis will offer participants "parent-smart" strategies for making Action Teams and partnerships that improve student achievement a permanent part of the school learning environment.

9:45 - 9:55 Break

9:55 - 10:55 Session A Workshops

#### **A1. Olympia A & B**

*Special Conference Track! The Action Team Approach Using the Six Types of Partnerships in Your School*

Keynote speaker **Dr. Mavis Sanders** offers a host of strategies to help your school get its Partnership Action Team off to a great start or to make it function even better. Learn from a nationally-respected expert how families can play a starring role in school improvement!

**Note: this workshop continues in Session B.**

#### **A2. Olympia C**

*Bright and Early: Involving Families and Communities in Four-Year-Old Kindergarten and Transitions*

Four-year-old Kindergarten is a phenomenal early childhood success story in Wisconsin. Learn from DPI Early Childhood Consultant **Jill Haglund** how communities across the state have enlisted the hearts and minds of families in providing this effort to level the playing field for all young children.

#### **A3. Wisconsin A, B & C**

*Ideas for Engaging Hard to Reach Families*

Successful partnership schools address the needs and build on the strengths of every family. Parents Plus Executive Director **Susan Rodriguez** and Milwaukee Director **Fernando Delgadillo** present a constructive blend of theory and practice to help schools involve families in poverty and those who may benefit most from partnerships.

#### **A4. Illinois A, B & C**

*How Family-Friendly Is Your School?*

The research is clear: when families are involved, students do better in school with academics and behavior. **Mary Sobczak**, North Central Coordinator for Wisconsin FACETS, will share successful practices for

involving families and for overcoming challenges to family involvement. Parents on REACH (Responsive Education for All Children) leadership teams are especially encouraged to attend. Bring your stories to share!

11:05 - 12:05 Session B Workshops

#### **B1. Olympia A & B**

*Continued from Session A: The Action Team Approach Using the Six Types of Partnerships*

Please see workshop description at A1.

#### **B2. Illinois A, B & C**

*The Hunger for Literacy: Reading as a Way of Life*

Research has shown that parents who read at home with their children increase their academic achievement.

**Patricia Ellis**, EdD, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Services, Cardinal Stritch University, will share literature, strategies, and hands-on activities that make reading a family affair.

#### **B3. Olympia C**

*Preventing Bullying in Wisconsin Schools: What Parents and Teachers Should Know*

Nearly 12% of Wisconsin high school students reported bullying and harassment as a problem in 2005. **Steve Fernan**, DPI Prevention Education Consultant, will describe the true impact of these behaviors and strategies that DPI advocates to combat the issue at school and home. He will review a new classroom activity guide and school policy guidelines.

#### **B4. Wisconsin A, B & C**

*Improving Nutrition through Parent-School Connections*

What does the new school wellness policy require of schools? How can families be involved in shaping it at school and in promoting healthy lifestyles at home? DPI Nutrition Education Consultant **Jill Camber Davidson** and parents from **Northside Elementary School**, Middleton, describe how schools and families can embrace new wellness efforts at school and at home.

12:10 LUNCH Olympia A & B

1:00 - 2:00 Session C Workshops

#### **C1. Olympia C**

*"I'm So Good at Math!" Strategies to Help Every Child Succeed in Math*

Math is for everyone, especially for children struggling to learn it. **Diana Kasbaum**, DPI Mathematics and School Improvement Consultant, highlights ways that parents and teachers can help children for whom math does not come easily. Her lighthearted, child-centered approach to math education offers can-do ideas for everyone. Diana will also share math resources for families and for adolescents.

## C2. Olympia A & B

*Parent Involvement in NCLB:*

*Focus on Supplemental Educational Services (SES)*

How does the federal No Child Left Behind Act require schools to involve parents? What special learning opportunities does the SES provide for children and families under the NCLB umbrella? **Dr. Shirley Moutry, Shelly Greller, Soumary Vongrassamy, and Beth McClure**, from the DPI Title I and School Support Team, will update participants on recent changes and best practices to involve families in school improvement.

## C3. Wisconsin A, B & C

*We Got Your Back: How Public Libraries*

*Can Support Parents and Schools*

Literacy is a community endeavor. **Kate Fitzgerald-Fleck**, manager of Children's Services at the Waukesha Public Library, offers great, "can-do" examples of how public libraries, schools, and parents are working together to keep children reading and meet community needs. Bring your ideas, too!

## C4. Illinois A, B & C

*Beyond "The Talk:" Strategies for*

*Keeping the Conversation with Teens Going*

DPI Consultant **Emily Holder**, HIV/AIDS/STD Prevention Program, offers ideas to help parents and teachers of middle and high school students connect the home and the health education classroom. Explore non-threatening ways parents can discuss sexual health while reinforcing skills taught in the classroom. New approaches for health educators will also be addressed. Participants receive a copy of the *Saving Sex for Later* CD series, with family discussions about puberty, relationships, and influences.

## C5. Broadmoor and Bonaventure Rooms

*Planning the Next Steps*

*for Your Partnership Action Team*

Teams who participated in the special conference track offered by Dr. Mavis Sanders during the morning will be able to continue meeting and developing their Action Plans

2:00 – 2:10 Break

**\*\*Turn in your Name Tag at the Registration Desk for a chance to win a Door Prize!**

2:10 – 3:00 General Session

## Olympia A & B

*Parents: Key Stakeholders for their Children's Future.*

Introduction by **Richard Grobschmidt**, Assistant State Superintendent, Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning, DPI.

**Ada Rivera**, principal of Pulaski High School, Milwaukee, spells it out plainly: parents are their children's greatest advocates and assets throughout their lives. Ada shares stories and insights from her far-ranging education career of parents' genuine power to overcome obstacles and help children achieve success in school and beyond.

**\*Please Turn in Evaluations at the Registration Desk\***

3:00 Adjourn

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*Sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and Parents Plus.*

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Keynote

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